

ORDINANCE NO. ORD-16-

MEASURE “ ”

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH REPEALING SECTION 3.80.260 AND AMENDING SECTION 3.80.261 OF THE LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE TO UPDATE A BUSINESS LICENSE TAX ON MARIJUANA BUSINESSES OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH.

The City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3.80.260 of the Long Beach Municipal Code is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Section 3.80.261 of the Long Beach Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3.80.261 – Marijuana Businesses.

A. Definitions.

For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

1. "Gross Receipts" shall mean any transfer of title or possession, exchange or barter, conditional or otherwise, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, of tangible personal property for a consideration including any monetary consideration for marijuana whatsoever, including, but not limited to, membership dues, reimbursements or the total amount of cash or in-kind contributions, including all operating costs related to the growth, cultivation, processing, storage, delivery or provision of marijuana or any transaction related thereto. The term "Gross Receipts" shall also include the total amount of the sale price of all sales, the total amount charged or received for the performance of any act, service or employment of whatever nature it may be, whether or not such service, act or employment is done as a part of or in connection with the sale of goods, wares, merchandise, for which a charge is made or credit allowed, including all refunds, cash credits and properties of any amount or nature, any amount for which credit is allowed by the seller to the purchaser without any deduction therefrom, on account of the cost of the property sold, the cost of materials used, the labor or service cost, interest paid or payable, losses, or any other expense whatsoever; provided that cash discounts allowed or payment on sales shall not be included. "Gross Receipts" shall not include the amount of any federal tax imposed on or with respect to retail sales whether imposed upon the retailer or the consumer and regardless of whether or not the amount of federal tax is stated to customers as a separate charge, or any California state, city or city and county sales or use tax required by law to be included in or added to the purchase price and collected from the consumer or purchaser, or such part of the sales price of any property previously sold and returned by the purchaser to the seller which is refunded by the seller by way of cash or credit allowances given or taken as



part payment on any property so accepted for resale. "Gross Receipts" shall be calculated without any deduction on account of any of the following:

- a. The cost of tangible property sold or bartered;
  - b. The cost of materials or products used, labor or service cost, interest paid, losses, or other expense; or
  - c. The cost of transportation of the marijuana, or other property or product.
2. "Income Tax Exempt Non-Profit Organization" shall mean any association, corporation or other entity that is exempt from taxation measured by income or gross receipts under Article XIII, Section 26 of the California Constitution.
  3. "Marijuana" shall mean all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa Linnaeus*, *Cannabis indica*, or *Cannabis ruderalis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin; whether crude or purified, extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. "Marijuana" also means the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from marijuana. "Marijuana" also means the term as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 11018 and is not limited to medical marijuana.
  4. "Marijuana Business" shall mean any business, whether operating for profit or not for profit, which performs any of the following activities: marijuana cultivation, delivering, distribution, processing, transporting, dispensing, selling at retail or wholesale, manufacturing, compounding, converting, preparing, storing, packaging, or testing. "Marijuana Business" includes both a Medical Marijuana Business and Non-Medical Marijuana Business. "Marijuana Business" does not include personal medical marijuana cultivation that is specifically permitted by state law or the Long Beach Municipal Code.
  5. "Marijuana Cultivation" shall mean the seeding, planting, watering, warming, cooling, growing, cultivating, harvesting, drying, curing, grading or trimming of marijuana.
  6. "Marijuana Delivery" shall mean the commercial transfer of marijuana or marijuana products from a marijuana business to a retail or wholesale customer.
  7. "Marijuana Distribution" or "Marijuana Transport" shall mean any activity involving the commercial procurement, sale, transfer and/or transport of marijuana and marijuana products from one Marijuana Business to another Marijuana Business for purposes authorized pursuant to state law or the Long Beach Municipal Code.
  8. "Marijuana Processing" shall mean any activity involving the manufacturing, production, preparation, propagation, processing, converting, or compounding of raw marijuana or marijuana products either directly or indirectly or by extraction methods, or independently by means of chemical synthesis at a fixed location that



1 packages or repackages marijuana or marijuana products or labels, packages or  
2 relabels its container.

- 3 9. "Marijuana Product" shall mean marijuana that has undergone a process whereby the  
4 raw agricultural product has been transformed into a concentrate, an edible product,  
5 or a topical product. "Marijuana Product" also means marijuana products as defined  
6 by California Health and Safety Code Section 11018.1 and is not limited to medical  
7 marijuana products.
- 8 10. "Marijuana Retail Sale" shall mean any activity involving the retail sale to customers  
9 of marijuana, marijuana products, or devices for the use of marijuana or marijuana  
10 products, either individually or in any combination, including marijuana delivery as  
11 part of a retail sale.
- 12 11. "Marijuana Testing" means any activity involving the testing of marijuana or  
13 marijuana products by a facility that is both of the following:
- 14 a. Accredited by an accrediting body that is independent from all other persons  
15 involved in the marijuana industry in the state; and
  - 16 b. Registered with the California State Department of Public Health.
- 17 12. "Medical Marijuana Business" shall mean any Marijuana Business which performs  
18 marijuana cultivation, delivering, distribution, processing, transporting, dispensing,  
19 selling at retail or wholesale, manufacturing, compounding, converting, preparing,  
20 storing, packaging, or testing, for the ultimate consumption or use of marijuana by  
21 qualified patients in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Sections  
22 11362.5 et. seq., the California Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act  
23 ("MMRSA"), and any other State law authorizing activities related to the medical  
24 use of marijuana.
- 25 13. "Non-Medical Marijuana Business" shall mean any business which performs  
26 marijuana cultivation, delivering, distribution, processing, transporting, dispensing,  
27 selling at retail or wholesale, manufacturing, compounding, converting, preparing,  
28 storing, packaging, or testing, for any other purpose than as a Medical Marijuana  
Business.
14. "Personal Medical Marijuana Cultivation" means cultivation by a qualified patient  
who cultivates one hundred (100) square feet total canopy area or less of marijuana  
exclusively for his or her personal medical use but who does not provide, donate,  
sell, or distribute marijuana to any other person. "Personal Medical Marijuana  
Cultivation" also includes cultivation by a primary caregiver who cultivates one  
hundred (100) square feet total canopy area or less of marijuana exclusively for the  
personal medical purposes of no more than five (5) specified qualified patients for  
whom he or she is the primary caregiver, but who does not receive remuneration for  
these activities except for compensation in full compliance with California Health  
and Safety Code Section 11362.765(c), as it may be amended.



15. "Square Foot under Cultivation" or "Square Footage under Cultivation" shall mean the actual amount of canopy (measured by the aggregate area of vegetative growth of live marijuana plants on the premises including the area occupied by vertically and horizontally stacked canopies) that is limited by the maximum amount a marijuana business is authorized to cultivate by either a City permit or license, or by a state license in the absence of a City permit or license, not deducting for unutilized square footage.

B. Business License Tax.

1. Every Marijuana Business whether organized as not-for-profit or for-profit, shall pay a business license tax in accordance with Chapter 3.80 of this Code and this Section.
2. For the purposes of this Section, a Marijuana Business is considered to be a business as that term is defined in Long Beach Municipal Code Section 3.80.133.
3. For the purposes of this Section, a Marijuana Business is not considered to be a religious or charitable organization as defined in Long Beach Municipal Code Section 3.80.320 (Exemption - Religious and charitable organizations).
4. The business tax set forth in this section is a general tax, the revenues from which shall be deposited into the City's general fund and may be expended for any valid public purpose of the City.

C. Business License Tax Rates.

1. Every medical marijuana business engaged in marijuana retail sale or delivery within the City shall pay a business tax at a rate of up to eight percent (8%) of gross receipts. The tax shall be initially set at a rate of six percent (6%). The tax under this paragraph shall not be increased on medical marijuana businesses unless and until the City Council by ordinance takes action, and the tax rate shall not exceed eight percent (8%) of gross receipts.
2. Every non-medical marijuana business engaged in marijuana retail sale or delivery within the City shall pay a business tax at a rate of up to twelve percent (12%) of gross receipts. The tax shall be initially set at a rate of eight percent (8%). The tax under this paragraph shall not be increased on non-medical marijuana businesses unless and until the City Council by ordinance takes action, and the tax rate shall not exceed twelve percent (12%) of gross receipts.
3. If a marijuana business is engaged in retail sales or delivery of both medical marijuana and a non-medical marijuana, it shall pay the business tax set forth in paragraph C.2., unless the marijuana business identifies to the City, by reasonable and verifiable standards, the portions of its retail sales activities that are tied to medical marijuana and those that are tied to non-medical marijuana, through the marijuana business' books and records kept in the regular course of business, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and not specifically



created and maintained for tax purposes. The marijuana business has the burden of proving the proper apportionment of taxes under this paragraph C.3.

4. Every marijuana business, whether medical or non-medical, that is engaged in marijuana distribution, transport, processing, or testing within the City, shall pay business tax at a rate of up to eight percent (8%) of gross receipts. The tax shall be initially set at a rate of six percent (6%). The tax under this section shall not be increased on marijuana businesses unless and until the City Council by ordinance takes action, and the tax rate shall not exceed eight percent (8%) of gross receipts. If a marijuana business that is engaged in marijuana distribution, transport, processing, or testing, is also engaged in marijuana retail sale or delivery of the same marijuana and marijuana products, then it shall pay the business taxes set forth in paragraphs C.1. or C.2., as applicable, for retail sale or delivery of any marijuana or marijuana products and is not required to pay the business taxes set forth in this paragraph for marijuana distribution, transport, processing, or testing for the same marijuana and marijuana products. The marijuana business has the burden of proving that the marijuana or marijuana products involved in distribution, transport, processing, or testing are the same.
5. In addition to the taxes set forth in paragraphs C.1., C.2., and C.4., every marijuana business, whether medical or non-medical, engaged in marijuana cultivation shall pay a tax of up to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per square foot under cultivation. The tax shall initially be set at a rate of twelve dollars (\$12.00) per square foot under cultivation. The City Council may by ordinance increase any such tax rate from time to time, not to exceed the maximum tax rate of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per square foot under cultivation.
6. Notwithstanding the maximum tax rates imposed in paragraphs C.1., C.2., C.4. and C.5., the City Council may in its discretion at any time by ordinance implement a lower tax rate, as defined in such ordinance, subject to the maximum rates set forth in C.1., C.2., C.4. and C.5. City Council may subsequently in its discretion at any time by ordinance implement a higher tax rate, subject to the maximum rates set forth in C.1., C.2., C.4. and C.5., and such increase does not constitute a tax increase for which voter approval is required Article XIII C of the California Constitution.
7. All marijuana businesses shall pay a minimum tax of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) annually.

D. Modification, Repeal or Amendment.

The City Council may repeal the ordinance codified in this Section, or amend it in a manner which does not result in an increase in the tax or taxes imposed herein, without further voter approval. If the City Council repeals said ordinance or any provision of this Section, it may subsequently reenact it without voter approval, as long as the reenacted ordinance or Section does not result in an increase in the tax or taxes beyond the maximum rate or methodology imposed herein.



1 E. Annual Adjustment.

2 The taxes imposed by paragraph C.5 shall be adjusted annually by the Director of Financial  
3 Management. Beginning on October 1, 2018, and on October 1 of each succeeding year thereafter,  
4 the amount of each tax imposed by paragraph C.5 shall be adjusted equivalent to the most recent  
5 change in the annual average of the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") for all urban consumers in the  
6 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County areas as published by the United States Government Bureau  
7 of Labor Statistics; however no adjustment shall decrease any tax imposed by paragraph C.5. For  
the purposes of calculating the annual adjustment factor under paragraph C.5, the base year shall be  
that year ending with December 31, 2016. Rates shall next be adjusted on October 1, 2018, and  
annually thereafter, based on the annually calculated change from the base year. The October 1,  
2018, adjustment shall be the change in the average CPI for the year ending December 31, 2017,  
compared to the base year ending December 31, 2016.

8 F. Administration.

9 The City Manager, or designee, and/or the City Council by ordinance, may promulgate  
10 regulations to implement and administer this Section including, but not limited to regulations  
11 allowing Marijuana Businesses to report and or remit taxes more or less frequently than monthly.  
The City Manager shall provide no less than annually a report to the City Council detailing annual  
expenditures.

12 G. Reporting and Remittance.

13 In order to aid in the City's collection of taxes due under this Section and to ensure that all  
14 Marijuana Businesses are taxed consistently to the best of the City's ability, beginning as set forth  
15 in Section K, below, and monthly thereafter, each Marijuana Business shall report to the City any  
16 Gross Receipts received during the reporting period and shall likewise remit to the City the taxes  
17 due and owing during said period. For purposes of this Section, taxes shall begin to accrue on the  
18 date that a person or entity first receives a business license or other permit to operate as a Marijuana  
19 Business or Cultivation Site. Square Footage payments shall be made annually at the beginning of  
the calendar year and should be based on the square footage that the marijuana business is authorized  
to cultivate by either a City permit or license, or by a state license in the absence of a City permit or  
license, not deducting for unutilized square footage, pro-rated based on the number of months of  
operation.

20 H. Delinquent date-Penalties.

21 Any individual or entity who fails to pay the taxes required by this Section within thirty (30)  
22 days after the due date shall pay in addition to the taxes a penalty for nonpayment in a sum equal to  
23 twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount due. Additional penalties will be assessed in the  
24 following manner: ten percent (10%) shall be added on the first day of each calendar month  
following the month of the imposition of the twenty-five percent (25%) penalty if the tax remains  
unpaid; up to a maximum of one hundred percent (100%) of the tax payable on the due date. Receipt  
of the tax payment in the office shall govern the determination of whether the tax is delinquent.  
Postmarks will not be accepted as adequate proof of a timely payment.

25 I. Records Inspection.

26 Whenever it is necessary to examine any books or records, including tax returns, of any  
27 Marijuana Business or Cultivation Site in the City to ascertain the amount of any tax due pursuant  
28 to this Section, the City shall have the power and authority to examine such necessary books and



records at any reasonable time including, but not limited to, during normal business hours. Records must be maintained for no less than seven (7) years.

J. Suspension, Revocation and Appeal.

The provisions of Sections 3.80.429.1 (Suspension or Revocation) and 3.80.429.5 (Appeal of License Revocation) shall apply in the case of Marijuana Businesses or Cultivation Sites governed by this Section.

K. Application of Provisions.

No business license permit issued under the provisions of this Code, or the payment of any tax required under the provisions of this Code shall be construed as authorizing the conduct or continuance of any illegal business or of a legal business in an illegal manner. Nothing in this Section implies or authorizes that any activity connected with the distribution or possession of cannabis is legal unless otherwise authorized and allowed by California and federal law. Nothing in this Section shall be applied or construed as authorizing the sale of marijuana.

L. Operative Date.

This ordinance establishing a marijuana business tax shall only become operative 1) if Chapter 5.89 of the Long Beach Municipal Code (banning marijuana businesses in the City of Long Beach) is repealed and 2) if a regulatory scheme to permit marijuana businesses within the City is adopted. The tax shall become effective on the effective date of the regulatory ordinance as provided by law

SECTION 3. Approval by the Voters/Competing Measure.

A. Pursuant to California Elections Code Section 9217, this Ordinance must be approved by at least a majority of the eligible voters of the City of Long Beach voting at the Special Election of November 8, 2016.

B. Further, pursuant to California Elections Code 9221, this Ordinance is expressly declared by the voters to conflict with Section 2 of Long Beach Measure “\_\_\_” (the “Kelton Measure” establishing a different rate and methodology of marijuana business license taxation). Therefore, if both this Ordinance and Section 2 of the Kelton Measure are approved by a majority of eligible Long Beach voters, the provision receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become effective and the other shall be of no force and effect.

C. Either this Ordinance or Section 2 of the Kelton Measure, whichever receives the highest number of affirmative votes pursuant to California Elections Code Section 9221, shall be deemed adopted and take effect ten (10) days after the City Council has certified the results of that election by resolution.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. Certification/Summary. Following the City Clerk’s certification that the citizens of Long Beach have approved this Ordinance, the Mayor shall sign this Ordinance and the City Clerk shall cause the same to be entered in the book of original ordinances of said City; and shall cause the same, or a summary thereof, to be published as required by law. (/end)